

forces the employers to open the factories under that tripartite agreement?

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR :** I do recognise that arrears are mounting up and the defaulters must be brought to book. We have taken penal proceedings against several of them because unless we take stringent steps recovery would be very difficult. I cannot give the exact number at present.

**SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE :** What about the tripartite agreement?

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR :** I will supply him the information later.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Strike by Workers of Durgapur Steel Plant

\*392. **SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the one-day strike of the workers of the Loco Shop and other units of the Durgapur Steel Plant on the 5th November, 1971 ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Hindustan Steel Employees' Union (HSEU), at whose instance the workers resorted to the strike, had submitted a charter of nine demands along with a strike notice. The main demands were finalisation of manning of certain units for the 1.6 million stage and upgradation of the post of rail crane helpers in the Diesel Loco Shop.

##### Collaboration of Czechoslovakia in Coal Mining

\*393. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce the latest technology in coal mining with the collaboration of Czechoslovakia ; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) :**

(a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

##### E. S. I. and E. P. F. Dues of Workers withheld by Closed Industrial Firms and Factories in West Bengal

\*394. **SHRI DINESH JOARDER :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of closed industrial firms and factories in West Bengal are withholding the dues of workers towards Employees' Provident Fund and Employees' State Insurance Scheme ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to force the employers of these firms to pay the legal Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance benefits to the workers?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) :** (a) and (b). The Provident Fund and the Employees State Insurance Corporation authorities have reported as under :—

##### *Employees Provident Fund*

There were 23 closed un-exempted establishments as on 30.6.1971 which defaulted in payment of provident fund contributions of Rs. one lakhs and above on account of employers' and employees' shares of provident fund contributions as well as arrears of pre-coverage accumulations and those on account of cancellation of exemption as on 30.6.1971.

Legal action by way of prosecutions/recovery proceedings has been initiated against most of the defaulting un-exempted establishments. Criminal cases for breach of trust have also been initiated against certain employers. Certain establishments entered into agreements for paying arrears according to the Schemes of payment settled with the State Governments/ Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

##### *Employees' State Insurance Corporation*

The information is being collected.